

Meeting of the Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

Malta, 25 - 28 November 1998

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REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has been convened in Malta from 25 to 28 November 1998, pursuant to the decision of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized during 1998 (UNEP (OCA)/MED IG.11/10, Tunis, 18-21 November 1997).

2. The principal objectives of the Focal Points Meeting were:

- a) to evaluate the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC for the period October 1996 - October 1998 and to review the current state of regional, sub-regional and national systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and to examine the actions to be taken to strengthen these systems;
- b) to discuss and agree on the further development of the regional information system;
- c) to consider the draft amendments to the Emergency Protocol and to Resolution 7 regarding the objectives and functions of REMPEC which will be submitted for adoption to the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and,
- d) to discuss and approve a programme of activities for the next biennium 2000-2001 which should include proposal regarding activities related to the prevention of pollution of marine environment from ships and which will be submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting.

3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points were invited to participate in the Focal Points Meeting. The Governmental Focal Points were also invited to include in their national delegations the representatives of their respective ministries responsible for the maritime transport. Relevant United Nations Organizations and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations were also invited to attend the Meeting. Industry representatives were invited to attend in the capacity of observers.

ATTENDANCE

4. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	MALTA
CROATIA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MOROCCO
EGYPT	SLOVENIA
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	SPAIN
FRANCE	SYRIA
GREECE	TUNISIA
ISRAEL	TURKEY
ITALY	

by representatives from the following United Nations Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANENA ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)
- WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)
- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS (IOPCF)

by representatives from the following Non-Governmental Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (IPIECA)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD. (ITOPF)

5. A complete list of participants is attached in **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Meeting was opened by the Honourable Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech, Minister for the Environment of the Republic of Malta. He explained that the fragile environment of the Mediterranean basin has been subjected to immense stress and that a proactive approach through prompt and effective action in the early stages of a spill is vital in order to further lessen the damaging effects on the marine environment and on economic resources. Recognizing that accidents will happen, he stressed the need for preventive action which was in line with the strategy of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II. He noted that for an effective Emergency Protocol, close co-operation between Contracting Parties is required. He mentioned that REMPEC has been instrumental over the years in strengthening the capacities of the Mediterranean coastal States and in promoting the necessary dialogue both at the regional and global level. He concluded by stating that it was indeed an honour for Malta to have hosted this Centre since 1976 and Malta would be providing new premises in a historical building at the Port of Valletta worthy of the importance that Malta gives to the role of REMPEC.

7. Mr. F.S. Civili greeted the participants on behalf of the MAP Co-ordinator, Mr. L. Chabason. He noted that the Focal Points Meeting should be considered as a mid-term review of the activities undertaken by the Centre in the implementation of the tasks set out by the Contracting Parties. He stressed the importance of this Focal Points Meeting due to the task ahead of having to consider, among others, the amendments to the Emergency Protocol and the new functions and objectives entrusted to the Centre as a consequence. He thanked the Hon. Dr. F. Zammit Dimech for the positive attitude shown and the continuous support given by the Government of Malta to REMPEC and the assurances for the relocation of the Centre to new premises. Finally, he congratulated the previous Director of REMPEC, Mr. J.C. Sainlos on his recent posting to the IMO and thanked him for his efforts and contribution while Director of the Centre. He then went on to welcome Mr. Roberto Patruno as the new Director of REMPEC.

8. Mr. J.C. Sainlos, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. William O'Neil, joined the Hon. Dr. F. Zammit Dimech in welcoming the participants to the Meeting of Focal Points. He recalled how, when the Mediterranean Action Plan was first adopted and REMPEC established within this framework, the administration of the Centre was entrusted to IMO with the full support of UNEP. He also recalled some of the topics under discussion at the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of IMO which could be of interest to the Mediterranean coastal States: port reception facilities, ballast water, where regional co-operation could take place. He mentioned that IMO considers REMPEC as a model and would like to see other similar Centres of its kind established elsewhere. He underlined the importance of having Focal Points Meetings since they gave the opportunity for all participants in the regional system to come together and develop strategies of mutual interest to protect the Mediterranean Sea. He noted that this Meeting will consider the amendments to the Emergency Protocol as well as the new functions of the Centre and consequently must consider the means to be put at the disposal of the Centre to implement these new functions. He concluded by thanking the Maltese Government for the efforts currently undertaken to relocate the Centre.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

9. The participants decided to apply, mutatis mutandis, to the Meeting the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

Agenda Item 2.1: Election of Officers

10. Participants unanimously elected Ms. Khadija Keffaoui (Morocco) as Chairperson, Ms. Bojana Lipej (Slovenia) as Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Loizos Loizides (Cyprus) as Rapporteur.

11. Following the election of the officers, the delegations joined the delegate of Israel in thanking Mr. Sainlos for his contribution and efforts which, during his tenure as Director, had made the Centre a more efficient tool for the benefit the coastal States. On behalf of the delegations, the delegate of Israel welcomed the new Director Mr. Patrino and was sure of the full support of all Focal Points they would give to the new Director to enable the Centre perform to its utmost.

12. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretary General of the WMO, Prof. G.O.P. Obasi and expressed special wishes to Mr. Sainlos and Mr. Patrino on both their new appointments. He mentioned that the IMO and WMO had a long-standing tradition of co-operation, particularly in the field of GMDSS.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

13. The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.16/3/1 and annotated in the present document, was proposed for adoption by the Focal Points Meeting. The Meeting was invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable was proposed in document REMPEC/WG.16/3/3.

14. The Meeting adopted the Agenda as in **Annex II** of the present Report. The list of documents is presented in **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REMPEC'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES (1997 - 1998)

15. The Meeting was informed of the present status of implementation of REMPEC's programme of activities for the period 1996-1998.

16. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/4 which contained a concise presentation of activities that the Centre carried out since the last Meeting of the Focal Points and outlined major achievements of the Centre during that period. He informed the Meeting of the activities carried out by REMPEC during the last biennium, aimed at improving and strengthening the regional system for co-operation and mutual assistance in cases of emergency, and on the other hand at increasing the levels of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution by individual coastal states. He emphasized that the volume of work carried out by the Centre increased over the last two years, while the working conditions continued to deteriorate.

17. The Director informed the Meeting that the Centre focused its activities on training, capacity building, assistance in emergency and information, and indicated that the question of dissemination of information will be dealt with under Agenda Item 5.

Training

18. The Meeting took note of the information that over the last two years the Centre organized and conducted three regional training courses in Greece, France and Italy, as well as three national training courses in Croatia, Libya and Syria respectively.

19. The Director of REMPEC thanked the Marine Environment Division of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine of the Hellenic Republic for its valuable support in organising MEDPOL 96 training course in Piraeus in December 1996. He also thanked CEDRE for the assistance in organizing in February 1997 the regional training course on packaged dangerous goods, and the Italian Ministry of Environment and the Italian chemical industry for their assistance in organising the regional training course on prevention, preparedness and response to accidents involving hazardous substances in bulk, held in Porto Marghera (Venice) in November 1997.

20. The Syrian delegation expressed its thanks for the assistance provided by REMPEC in organizing the Workshop on accidental marine pollution, held in Lattakia in April 1998.

Capacity building

21. The Meeting noted that during the period under consideration the Centre gave its assistance in developing national systems for preparedness and response to Albania, Lebanon, Libya, Malta and Syria.

22. As regards development of the subregional agreements concerning co-operation and mutual assistance in case of emergency, the Meeting took note of the progress achieved in the project for development of oil spill response capabilities of Cyprus, Egypt and Israel.

23. The Meeting also took note of the fact that REMPEC was kept informed of initiatives taken by Croatia, Italy and Slovenia on developing a subregional contingency plan for the Northern Adriatic.

24. The Director of REMPEC emphasized that as regards development of the subregional agreements for preparedness and response, it was not essential that potential partners in such agreements are equally well equipped with necessary spill response resources, but that they should achieve compatible levels of national organization prior to entering into bi- or multilateral agreements

25. The representative of Albania thanked REMPEC for the preparation of the comprehensive project proposal concerning the completion of the Albanian national system for preparedness and response, and requested REMPEC to continue its support to Albania in the implementation of this project.

26. The Syrian delegation informed the Meeting of the progress achieved at the national level in the preparation of the draft national contingency plan, and requested the Director of REMPEC to ensure the further assistance of the Centre in developing Syrian national preparedness and response system.

27. The Lebanese delegation also informed the Meeting of the progress achieved at the national level and requested the Director of REMPEC for further assistance in developing Lebanon's national system for preparedness and response.

28. The Maltese delegation expressed its satisfaction with the assistance offered by REMPEC to the Maltese authorities in formulating "Interim Emergency Response Procedures" and indicated that further co-operation with the Centre, based on the Memorandum of Understanding organizing co-operation between Maltese authorities and REMPEC, should continue in the future.

29. The Director of REMPEC reassured the representatives of the four countries concerned that REMPEC will continue to support, within the limits of its resources, their efforts in developing comprehensive national systems for preparedness and response.

30. The delegate of Israel emphasized the very positive results achieved since the start of the LIFE Project for development of the subregional preparedness and response system concerning Cyprus, Egypt and Israel, at both national and subregional levels, and encouraged Mediterranean coastal States to promote similar agreements. He pointed out that the project would be much less successful if not for the continuous financial support of the European Union as well as the technical and administrative support of REMPEC. He expressed the wish that the Centre continues its support to the three countries concerned after the completion of the current project.

31. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that REMPEC prepared project proposals aimed at developing national preparedness and response systems of Malta, Syria and Turkey, which were subsequently submitted for approval and financial assistance to the LIFE Third Countries 98 financial mechanism of the European Union (cf. Agenda Item 12, paragraphs 104 - 105). It also noted the progress of projects concerning capacity building in the field of hazardous substances other than oil, for ports of Thessaloniki (Greece) and Koper (Slovenia).

32. The Meeting also took note that REMPEC submitted to the MEDA financing mechanism of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of the European Union, a project proposal concerning reception facilities. The project was approved by the DG VII of the European Commission and is expected to commence following clearance by DG IB.

Assistance in case of emergency

33. The Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting that during the period under consideration there were no major spill incidents in the region. However at the occasion of several minor accidents the Centre provided, upon request, information to national authorities concerned and other interested parties respectively.

34. The Meeting took note of the exercises organized during 1997-1998 period within the region, in which the Centre participated.

35. The Director of REMPEC pointed out that the last biennium was characterized by the fact that most Mediterranean countries have reached the minimum level of preparedness to respond to accidental marine pollution which would allow them to participate more actively in the development of a regional system for co-operation in cases of emergency. However he emphasized that the development and the improvement of national and regional systems resulted in a constant increase in the activities and volume of work of the Centre.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

36. The Technical Expert of REMPEC introduced documents REMPEC/WG.16/5 and REMPEC/WG.16/INF.9 concerning the current state of the regional information system (RIS), in particular the computerized part of Part B of the RIS and the new developments in this regard as well as the initiative taken to develop a website on REMPEC. A presentation of the computerized part of Part B of the RIS and a demonstration of the possible contents of a website was given by a consultant.

37. The Meeting appreciated the work carried out so far and had an exchange of view on the possible contents of the website, as well as where the website would be hosted. Certain options were considered; hosting the website within the Centre itself, at an external location and at a site belonging to the U.N. The Meeting was of the opinion that at this stage, it did not have enough information to make any concrete decisions. It requested the Director to study the various options on the location of the website taking into account various factors such as cost, U.N. rules applicable to website hosting and management of the site. Prior to any decision, it was agreed that the Director would circulate the information to the Focal Points to obtain their feedback.

38. Regarding the contents of the website, the Meeting was of the view that since more information was required, before a decision could be taken, access to the information should be protected.

39. The Director highlighted that to date, access to certain information which constituted Part B of the RIS was restricted and disseminated only to the Focal Points. He suggested that the development of the website could continue along these lines. A decision to protect some of the data limiting its access or having an open website could be taken at a later date when the site was fully functional. This decision could be taken at the next Meeting of Focal Points. The Meeting endorsed his suggestion.

40. Regarding the computerized part of Part B of the RIS, one delegation suggested that the Centre may wish to investigate the possibility of putting data which do not change very frequently (static data) on CD-ROM for circulation to the Focal Points.

Agenda Item 5.1: Directories, Lists, Inventories, Catalogue

41. The Technical Expert of REMPEC introduced documents REMPEC/WG.16/5/1, REMPEC/WG.16/INF.10, REMPEC/WG.16/INF.25, REMPEC/WG.16/INF.26, REMPEC/WG.16/INF.27 concerning directories, lists, inventories and catalogues produced by the Centre as part of Part

B of the RIS. He explained that the documents were prepared with the new computer program shown by the Consultant.

42. He urged the Focal Points to provide the Centre with any changes or corrections in the data that appeared in the various documents.

43. The Meeting took note and provided the necessary information to REMPEC.

Agenda Item 5.2: Databanks, Simulation Models and Decision Support Systems

44. The Chemical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/5/2 describing the efforts of the Centre in the last biennium to improve the TROCS database. He also informed the Meeting that the Centre had received the new CAMEO programme which was made available by the U.S. E.P.A. at no cost. He explained that further developments had been undertaken through the conclusion of a consultancy agreement. The consultants gave a presentation of the structure and new features of the TROCS database.

45. Following a query of one delegation on the availability of aquatic toxicity information in the database, the Chemical Expert explained that the database contains the chemical hazard profiles assigned by the Working Group of GESAMP on the Evaluation of Harmful Substances carried by Ships which contains aquatic toxicity data which could be used as a first hazard evaluation of the marine toxicity of a product when spilled in the marine environment.

46. Another delegation inquired which names of experts would appear in the TROCS database. It was explained that the system gives autonomy to the end-user so that names of experts in their own country, or experts or centres of expertise which feature in REMPEC's regional information system or both could be entered.

47. The representative of MAP commented that he saw a use for the TROCS database in some of the activities of MEDPOL.

48. The Meeting took note of the progress to date.

Agenda Item 5.3: Operational Guides and Technical Documents

49. The Chemical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/5/3 describing the status of the operational guides and technical documents constituting Part C and D of the Regional Information System, as well as a proposal to modify the list of documents that appear in Part D of the Regional Information System. He noted that since the last Meeting of Focal Points, the OPRC Working Group had embarked on a project to revise and update the IMO's Chemical Manual (REMPEC/WG.16/INF.12). He explained that REMPEC had therefore delayed commencement of the work on the Centre's Guide to Marine Chemical Spills to allow enough time for the work to progress on the IMO Chemical Manual which was now completed, in order to avoid duplication in effort and content. He explained that since the Centre had contributed to the work of IMO, it was able to gauge the level of duplication. The Chemical Expert introduced a Draft Guide to Marine Chemical Spills (REMPEC/WG.16/INF.24) and further explained that the Centre's guide should be seen as a complimentary practical guide to the IMO Manual on Chemical Pollution. He also explained that the reason to delete the two documents in the listing of Part D of the Regional Information System was that the information contained in these documents would be well covered by the TROCS database. On behalf of the WHO/ILO/UNEP International Programme on Chemical Safety, the Chemical Expert introduced REMPEC/WG.16/INF.16 which contained information on the contents of the IPCS INCHEM database.

50. The Technical Expert introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/INF.14 concerning the Guidelines for the use of Dispersants for Combating Oil Pollution at Sea in the Mediterranean Region (REMPEC/RIS/D/2). The document is a republished edition of the one first published in January 1994 and the only changes to the document related solely to the update of policy on the use of dispersants by the coastal States following information received by the Centre.

51. The Meeting noted and appreciated the progress made.

Agenda Item 5.4: Sensitivity Mapping

52. The Director of the Centre informed the Meeting of the contribution to the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for Sfax, Tunisia through the project directed to the development of sensitivity maps for the coastal region of Sfax carried out within the context of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for accidental marine pollution. He also informed the Meeting that the project is near completion and all that remains is the training of personnel scheduled for December. The closure of the whole CAMP project will be presented at a meeting on 15 - 16 December 1998 in Sfax.

53. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

Agenda Item 5.5: Meteorological Support to Marine Pollution Emergency Response Operations on the High Seas (WMO - MPERSS)

54. The Representative of WMO introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/INF.15 which gave full details of the WMO Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS). A system that has as its main objective the world-wide co-ordination of the provision of meteorological and oceanographic information in support of emergency operations in cases of marine pollution in the high seas. He explained that since its inception by CMM-XI in 1993, the system had now been revised by a workshop on MPERSS that took place in Townsville, Australia in July 1998. The workshop made a number of recommendations directed to enhance MPERSS implementation. Those recommendations and actions are detailed in **Annex IV** of this Report.

55. The Meeting was also informed that the Mediterranean Sea had now two Area Meteorological Co-ordinators (AMCs) and recognised Mr. Philippe Dandin (Météo-France) for the Western Mediterranean, and Mr. George Kassimidis (Hellenic Meteorological Service) for the Eastern Mediterranean.

56. The Meeting also recognised that there seems to exist a gap in the communications between the national institutions responsible for pollution emergency operations and their respective national meteorological services, both at the national as well as at the international level. In order to fill this gap the Meeting agreed that, under the co-ordination of REMPEC, the national meteorological services would be operationally integrated at the time of the next REMPEC annual telecommunications exercises. This action is to be supplemented by WMO, which would contact all National Meteorological Services of the Contracting Parties to inform them on this proposal and advise them for their appropriate preparation and action.

57. The Meeting agreed that it would be a step forward if appropriate meteorological co-ordination could be effected in cases of practical exercises carried out in real time. The delegation of France indicated that, taking advantage of the next Antipol exercise, in mid-January 1999, to be held jointly with Spain, the meteorological coordination with Météo-France would be tested. Observers designated by REMPEC's Focal Points will be welcome during this exercise and should inform the French Focal Point in due time. The delegation of Greece also indicated that in a future practical exercise, early co-ordination would be established with the Hellenic Meteorological Service so as to provide appropriate meteorological information.

58. The representative of IMO pointed out that the Marine Environment Protection Committee has decided to include the MPERSS on the Agenda of its next meeting (MEPC 43), in particular to include it within the work of the OPRC Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REGIONAL STRATEGY ON PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT BY SHIPS

59. The Director of REMPEC reminded the meeting that a Resolution on the "Regional Strategy on Prevention of Pollution of the Marine Environment by Ships" had been adopted by the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention after having been prepared by the last Meeting of Focal Points. Through that Resolution Contracting Parties also decided that the Emergency Protocol was "to be amended in order to introduce in it the provisions necessary to

implement this strategy” and it desired “to adopt the corresponding amendments on the occasion of their 1999 meeting”. They further decided that the Annex to Resolution 7 regarding the objectives and functions of REMPEC was to be amended. A Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts had been convened for this purpose and the Focal Points were invited to study the texts proposed by the experts, contained in Annexes IV and V of the report (REMPEC/WG.15/6).

60. It was further reminded that any text to amend the Protocol approved by the Meeting would have to go to the relevant bodies of MAP for final submission to a diplomatic conference.

61. Answering questions of delegates, the Director of REMPEC declared that, if the amendments to the Protocol (Annex IV of the Report of the Meeting of Experts) and the amendments to the Annex to Resolution 7 related to the objectives and functions of the REMPEC (Annex V of the Report of the Meeting of Experts) were adopted, they would constitute the adequate legal basis for REMPEC to carry out the role given to it by the strategy, provided that the necessary staff is made available.

62. The representative of the MAP Co-ordinating Unit declared that the work carried out by the Meeting of Experts had been very successful and that, in order to harmonise the work with that carried out for the other texts of the Barcelona Convention, a new Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts would be necessary to give the opportunity to continue the work for a more extended revision of the Protocol in order to modernise the Protocol and to have it in line with the texts of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as recently revised. He stated that the Co-ordinating Unit could convene such a meeting outside the budget allocated to REMPEC.

63. The Meeting took note of this declaration and agreed that all efforts shall be made to convene such a meeting before the MAP Focal Points Meeting. Preparatory work shall be carried out in close co-operation between the Co-ordinating Unit, IMO and REMPEC.

64. Following a proposition by one delegation, the Meeting accepted to amend paragraph 1 (d) of article 6 of the Protocol proposed by the Meeting of Experts as follows: replace “responsible for the development of port reception facilities” with “providing port reception facilities”.

65. The Greek delegation reserved its position on the reference to bi- or multilateral agreements in article 3 bis and article 6, paragraph 6, as in its opinion, such reference was unnecessary since a Contracting State, in seeking co-operation for the effective implementation of Conventions, is entitled to select the means considered appropriate for such co-operation.

66. The Italian delegation proposed an alternative text for paragraph 2.3 of the preamble since according to its view, the detailed citation of a few international Conventions, instead of clarifying the policy of REMPEC gives the impression of limiting it. As this proposal did not reach consensus of the Meeting, the delegation withdrew the proposal but expressed its reservation on the proposed text.

67. This delegation proposed to delete new sub-paragraph (d) in article 6 paragraph 1 since according to its view, it implies additional management costs to the organization. This proposal was not accepted.

68. The Meeting approved the text proposed by the Meeting of Experts as amended with the above-mentioned reservations (see **Annex V**)

69. The Meeting then examined the proposition to amend the Annex to Resolution 7 related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC.

70. The Meeting approved the text proposed by the Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts (see **Annex VI**).

71. The Italian delegation introduced a general reservation on the whole text.

72. The Meeting took note that the two documents would be forwarded by REMPEC to the MAP Co-ordinating Unit for further action.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CO-OPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND THE OIL, CHEMICAL AND SHIPPING INDUSTRIES CONCERNING PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION

73. The Technical Expert together with the Chemical Expert introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/7 concerning the initiatives of co-operation between governments and the oil, chemical and shipping industries. The Chemical Expert drew the attention of the Meeting to the document (REMPEC/WG.16/INF.20) submitted by CEFIC on the network set up by the industry for the transfer of information on chemical substances in case of a chemical accident entitled the "ICE network". The Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting of the assistance of the French oil industry specifically, ELF Aquitaine, gave to REMPEC by the secondment of a young engineer to the Centre. He urged others to follow suit in this regard.

74. The General Secretary of IPIECA, on behalf of the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG), informed the Meeting of the IPIECA's and MOIG's activities in the field of preparedness and response. He emphasized the importance of the participation of the national oil companies to MOIG meetings to integrate better the needs of the national oil companies with those of the international oil industry. He also appealed to the Focal Points to make known the work of MOIG to their respective national oil companies in order that there would be more active participation of the national oil companies within MOIG.

75. The representative from ITOPF introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/INF.17, which described ITOPF's technical work consisting of: 1) response to marine spills; 2) damage assessment and claims analyses 3) contingency planning and advisory work 4) training and information. He also explained that ITOPF has drawn up 160 country profiles of maritime nations. Jointly with MOIG, ITOPF has drawn up county profiles for Mediterranean coastal States. These were circulated at the Meeting of Focal Points. He concluded by pointing out that recently, dry cargo vessel owners have been given associate membership status which gives the opportunity to avail themselves of the services of ITOPF.

76. One delegation was of the opinion that a more proactive approach from the industry would be welcomed and invited the oil industry to strengthen their co-operation through action directed at specific issues.

77. The representative of ELF Aquitaine circulated a prototype educational package prepared for school teachers to help raise the awareness of protecting the marine environment from massive oil pollution: "black tides".

78. Some delegations and representatives from the oil industry members of the national delegations namely Cyprus, Greece, Tunisia, and Libya described the way in which co-operation between the oil industry and the competent authorities responsible for response to oil pollution was developed and implemented in their countries.

79. The delegation of Tunisia informed the Meeting of an exercise under preparation between the oil and shipping industry. The delegation of Tunisia also offered to pass information to the oil industry regarding the possibilities and modalities for the oil industry to second a person to REMPEC similar to the way the French oil industry has done.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OPRC 90 CONVENTION AND OPRC WORKING GROUP

80. The Representative of IMO introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/8. He supplemented the information in this document with a summary of the major achievements of the last Meeting of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and its OPRC Working Group held at the beginning of November 1998. He stressed that the draft amendments to the OPRC Convention extending it to hazardous and noxious substances had been approved by the Committee which will request the IMO Council to convene a diplomatic conference in the year 2000.

81. He gave information on the development of various manuals related to response to pollution which are under preparation or planned. He underlined that the OPRC Working Group had asked that REMPEC and the Helsinki Commission (which works within the framework of the Convention for the

Baltic Sea) provide input regarding its programme in the field of preparedness for and response to chemical pollution.

82. He strongly encouraged Mediterranean coastal States to participate in the OPRC Working Group.

83. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

AGENDA ITEM 9: LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR MARINE POLLUTION DAMAGE

84. The Representative of the IOPC Funds introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/8. She insisted on the advantage the Mediterranean coastal States, which had not done so up to now, would gain by joining the 1992 IOPC Fund and, when relevant, denouncing the 1971 Fund.

85. The Italian delegation clarified the objections its country had to the 1992 Convention.

86. Some delegations raised their concerns on the possible consequences of the application of the 1992 CLC and Fund Conventions in the Mediterranean as regards EEZ.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRE

87. The Director presented document REMPEC/WG.16/10 and insisted particularly on the difficulties the Centre had encountered as the number of the professional staff is too small. He further remarked that the new functions REMPEC had been asked to carry out in the field of prevention would aggravate the situation. In this respect he invited competent national authorities to consider the possibility of assisting REMPEC by seconding professional personnel to the Centre.

88. The role played by IMO for REMPEC was questioned by the Italian delegation and it was explained that IMO and UNEP had worked together in the development of the original Emergency Protocol and in the creation of the Centre. The Centre is administered by IMO following a decision of the diplomatic Conference which adopted the Protocol and within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding and a joint project signed by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary General of IMO. The latter is highly committed to carry out the duties given to his Organization according to decisions by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Conventions as he is in other Regional Seas which followed the same path as the Mediterranean.

89. Most delegations emphasised the important role of IMO in the functioning of REMPEC and the need for it to be continued in the future.

90. The Meeting expressed concern regarding the insufficient manpower of REMPEC and highlighted that the strong resolution adopted at the last Meeting of Focal Points had had no effect.

91. The Representative of the Co-ordinating Unit declared that the Focal Points were totally justified when they insisted that REMPEC should be given the means it needed to carry out its tasks. He recalled however that Contracting Parties had considered that the proportion of the MAP budget allocated to personnel was becoming too high. This was the reason why the Co-ordinating Unit could not propose recruiting a new professional staff member for REMPEC to the Contracting Parties in Tunis 1997 when they adopted the budget. Any substantial change to the budget of REMPEC for the next biennium could take place only if the Contracting Parties at their next Meeting were to consider that REMPEC's activities have a priority over others which would justify the allocation of new personnel. He further highlighted that it would be essential, as it was done in the past, to continue to look for means external to the current budget of MAP.

92. The Director of REMPEC pointed out that the increase of activities which resulted from the additional responsibilities given to the Centre when its mandate had been extended to harmful substances in 1988 as well as the constant increase in requests for support from Mediterranean countries had not been followed up with a corresponding increase in manpower. Under such conditions, the lack of a professional administrator, knowledgeable of the U.N. method of operation, was a very serious handicap for the Centre which was now approaching a situation where it was no longer in a position to carry out all what is requested of it. The Director stressed therefore that the

availability of a professional administrator on a permanent basis was of absolute necessity and that such position should be filled as soon as possible and no later than January 2000.

93. The Meeting then decided, with the opposition of one delegation, to adopt a resolution as follows:

- ***Recalling* the resolution it had adopted at its last meeting (October 1996) on the necessity for REMPEC to have an administrator;**
- ***Considering* the present workload of the professional staff of REMPEC which prevents it from carrying out all the tasks Contracting Parties already gave to the Centre;**

the Meeting of Focal Points requests the co-ordinator to have this post provided for in the budget for the next biennium and Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to agree on such proposal.

94. The Meeting further underlined that each Focal Point of REMPEC should contact the representative of his country attending the MAP Focal Points Meeting which would prepare the budget for the next biennium and attending the Contracting Parties Meeting which would adopt it to explain to them the urgent need to give positive follow-up to the resolution they had just adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 11: MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMME (2000/2003) AND DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE FOR THE 2000/2001 BIENNIUM - PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

95. The Director introduced document REMPEC/WG.16/11 containing two annexes. An annex containing a proposed programme for the 2000 - 2001 biennium in the field of preparedness for, response to and co-operation in case of accidental marine pollution which was mainly a continuation of the programme agreed upon for the 1998 - 1999 biennium and a second annex presenting topics, which could be carried out during the two forthcoming biennia to implement the "regional strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships".

96. The Meeting considered that in view of the uncertainty as to the means, in particular the staff, which would be available to REMPEC in the future, it was difficult to give a proper orientation.

97. The Meeting then agreed that the annex containing the proposed programmes for the 2000 - 2001 biennium, as a whole, was a pertinent document to assist the Director of REMPEC prepare his budgetary proposals for the next biennium, under the existing text of the Emergency Protocol. The Meeting further indicated that it would rely on the Director to implement the programme and decide the priorities according to the means made available to the Centre (see **Annex VII**).

98. It was agreed that regional training courses, as described in **Annex VII**, should be of a specialized type and should deal with advanced topics such as train-the-trainers, decision-making, crisis management. Courses of general type should be dealt with at national level, with the possible assistance of REMPEC.

99. As regards action under the strategy on the prevention of pollution by ships, the Meeting agreed that, except for the programme on port reception facilities for which financing was presently being studied by the European Union within the MEDA programme, no action should start until the necessary personnel is made available to REMPEC.

100. The Meeting requested the Director to prepare a new annex, without any indication of dates, which would give some indication of the possible orientation of actions under the regional strategy and the extended Protocol (see **Annex VIII**).

101. One delegation proposed that the Meeting of Focal Points should be organised on an annual and not on a biennial basis. This proposal was supported by some delegations. It was however underlined that the cost of such a meeting would mean removing one regional training course. It was also stressed that preparation of such an additional meeting would considerably increase the work

load for REMPEC while Focal Points had taken a resolution expressing their deep concern on the present level of manpower of the Centre in relationship to the work to be undertaken.

102. The discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of such additional meetings resulted in the conclusion of combining proposals of various delegations as follows: the present periodicity would be maintained and the Director of REMPEC would have the possibility to convene an additional meeting should a strong need be felt and to reallocate resources for that purpose. He should circulate an annual interim report, similar the one circulated under Item 4 of the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 12: CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES (EU, EURO MED, GEF, WORLD BANK, UNDP, METAP)

103. The Secretariat introduced document REMPEC.WG.16/12 containing information concerning the Centre's co-operation with the European Union, the World Bank and OECD, and its participation in the work of GESAMP. It also drew the attention of the Meeting to the note provided by the World Bank in document REMPEC.WG.16/INF.18.

104. The Meeting noted that in the beginning of 1998 REMPEC submitted for approval to LIFE Third Countries 1998 three project proposals concerning Malta (Sensitivity mapping and oil spill modelling), Turkey (Risk assessment and associated capacity building for the ports of Mersin and Iskenderun) and Syria (Development of the national system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution) respectively. In August 1998 the European Commission informed the Centre that the Project proposal concerning Turkey had been granted Community financial support. The execution of the Project is scheduled to start in the beginning of 1999.

105. The delegates of Cyprus, Egypt and Israel expressed their appreciation for REMPEC's efforts in the management of the project concerning the development of the sub-regional system for preparedness and response of their respective countries which is financed through LIFE Third Countries mechanism of the European Commission. They requested the Director of REMPEC to extend their gratitude in particular to Mr. T. Dicorradro of DG XI/A/5 for his active support to this Project.

106. The Tunisian delegation informed the Meeting that the Oil Pollution Management Project for the South Mediterranean Sea concerning Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, which the World Bank administers in its capacity as the GEF Administrator, was not short-listed for financing under the 1998 investment programme and alternatives are being sought to finance the project.

107. The representative of the GSP Libyan AJ informed the Meeting that his country at present does not participate in any project in the field of accidental marine pollution preparedness and response, financed through external financing mechanisms, and requested the Director of REMPEC to notify Libyan authorities on any new developments related to the above mentioned World Bank project.

108. The Director of REMPEC indicated that, in the beginning of 1999, he plans to meet the representatives of the World Bank with a view to discussing their current activities in the Mediterranean region, and reassured the Libyan delegation that the Libyan authorities will be duly informed of the results of this meeting.

109. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and requested the Director of REMPEC to continue the co-operation with other international organizations and programmes involved in activities related to accidental marine pollution preparedness and response, and in particular with exploring the possibilities of finding external sources of financing activities in this field for the benefit of the Mediterranean coastal States.

AGENDA ITEM 13: OTHER BUSINESS

110. The representative of the MAP Co-ordinating Unit outlined the activities carried out within the framework of the Dumping Protocol in particular making reference to the workshop to be held in Malta in the forthcoming week concerning guidelines for the management of dredged material.

111. The Director of CEDRE recalled the problems municipalities had to face when their coastlines were polluted following illegal discharges from ships and how important it was to detect such discharges. He explained that until recently only airborne observations were available but experiments carried out in the field of satellite remote sensing showed potential and in fact a comparison of airborne observations with those from satellites showed that the latter were now becoming more reliable.

112. In response to some queries from delegates, he explained that the identification of ships by satellite would only be possible in the rather distant future when ships will be equipped with transponders. In the interim, it is possible, to send a plane which would identify the ship responsible for the discharge around 3 hours after detection by satellite. He also pointed out that the whole Mediterranean was covered by satellites and that any coastal State could request the relevant satellite images provided it was ready to pay for them.

113. The Focal Points were also reminded that at a preceding Focal Point Meeting, they had been informed of the development within the Bonn Agreement of a manual (available in English and French) aimed at assisting prosecutors and courts to accept evidence obtained from airborne visual observations.

114. The suggestion was made to organise a regional seminar on these issues, similar to the one organised in 1997 by CEDRE for the Bonn Agreement. The Director of REMPEC stated that he was ready to initiate action if requested by the Contracting Parties.

115. Some delegates expressed the view that ERS/RAC in Palermo should be involved in possible future REMPEC activities in the field of remote sensing.

116. The Tunisian delegation presented the idea of a sub-regional agreement for co-operation in aerial surveillance.

AGENDA ITEM 14: APPROVAL OF THE REPORT

117. The Meeting adopted the present text together with its Annexes, as the Report of the Meeting on 28 November 1998.

AGENDA ITEM 15: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

118. The Meeting was closed by the Chairperson, Ms. K. Keffaoui at 11.30 hours on Saturday, 28 November 1998.

ANNEX(E) I

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the implementation of REMPEC's Programme of Activities (1997-1998)
 - Training
 - Capacity building: development of national, sub-regional and regional capabilities
 - Assistance in case of emergency: communication, exercises and the Mediterranean Assistance Unit
5. Regional Information System
 - 5.1 Directories, lists, inventories, catalogue
 - 5.2 Data banks, simulation models and decision support system
 - 5.3 Operational guides and technical documents
 - 5.4 Sensitivity mapping
 - 5.5 Meteorological support to marine pollution emergency response operations on the high seas (WMO-MPERSS)
6. Regional strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships
 - Amendments to the Emergency Protocol
 - Amendments to the Annex to Resolution 7 - objectives and functions of REMPEC
 - On going and future activities in this field
7. Cooperation between governments and the oil, chemical and shipping industries concerning preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution
8. OPRC Convention and OPRC Working Group
9. Liability and compensation for marine pollution damage
10. Administration of the Centre
11. Medium term programme (2000-2003) and decisions and guidance for 2000/2001 biennium - programme and budget
12. Cooperation and coordination with other International Organizations and Programmes (EU, Euro Med, GEF, World Bank, UNDP, METAP)
13. Other business
14. Approval of the Report
15. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEXE III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

REMPEC/WG.16/1	- - no documents issued under this Agenda Item - -
REMPEC/WG.16/2	- - no documents issued under this Agenda Item - -
REMPEC/WG.16/3/1	Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.16/3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.16/3/3	Draft Timetable
REMPEC/WG.16/4	Progress Report (October 1996 - October 1998) – Implementation of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency
REMPEC/WG.16/5	The Regional Information System
REMPEC/WG.16/5/1	Directories, Lists, Inventories and Catalogue
REMPEC/WG.16/5/2	Databanks, Simulation Models and Decision Support System
REMPEC/WG.16/5/3	Operational Guides and Technical Documents
REMPEC/WG.16/5/4	Sensitivity mapping
REMPEC/WG.16/5/5	- - no documents issued under this Agenda Item - -
REMPEC/WG.16/6	Draft Report of the Meeting of National Legal and Technical Experts on the amendment to the Emergency Protocol (REMPEC/WG.15/6)
REMPEC/WG.16/7	Co-operation between Governments and the Oil, Chemical and Shipping Industry
REMPEC/WG.16/8	OPRC Convention and OPRC Working Group
REMPEC/WG.16/9	Liability and Compensation for Marine Pollution Damage – Submitted by IOPC Funds
REMPEC/WG.16/10	Administration of the Centre
REMPEC/WG.16/11	Proposed Medium Term Programme of priority activities 2000 - 2003, and decisions and guidance for the 2000/2001 biennium programme

REMPEC/WG.16/12	Co-operation and co-ordination with other International Organizations and Programmes
REMPEC/WG.16/13	- - <i>no documents issued under this Agenda Item</i> - -
REMPEC/WG.16/14	Report of the Meeting

Information Documents

REMPEC/WG.16/INF.1	List of Documents
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.2	List of Participants
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.3	Report of the Joint Regional Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Marine Pollution Incidents involving Oil and other Hazardous Substances in the Mediterranean, MEDIPOL 96, Athens, Greece, 29 November – 7 December 1996
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.4	Report of the Specialized Regional Training Course on Response to Packaged Dangerous Goods Lost at Sea, MEDEXPOL 97, Brest, France, 4 - 8 February 1997
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.5	Report of the Course on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Maritime Accidents Involving Liquid Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Carried in Bulk, On-Scene Co-ordinator, MEDEXPOL 97, Porto Marghera, Italy, 24 - 28 November 1997
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.6	Report of the National Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Oil Pollution for On-scene Commanders and Supervisors, Tripoli, GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 17 – 21 May 97 (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.7	Report of the National Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Oil Pollution, Opatija, Croatia, 16 – 18 June 97 (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.8	Report of the National Workshop on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Oil Pollution, Lattakia, Syrian Arab Republic, 20 – 22 April 98 (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.9	Regional Information System - New Developments (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.10	Directories, Lists, Inventories and Catalogue (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.11	Report of the Communication Exercise between REMPEC and SET, Italy, carried out within the Framework of the European Chemical Industry's responsible Care Programme - ICE, December 1997 (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.12	IMO Manual on Chemical Pollution, Section 1 – Problem Assessment and Response Arrangements (MEPC 42/7/Add.2)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.13	Paper presented at the "Twenty Years After Amoco Cadiz" Symposium, Brest, France, October 1998 (English Only)

REMPEC/WG.16/INF.14	Regional Information System: Part D. Operational Guides and Technical Documents; Section 2, "Guidelines for the Use of Dispersants for Combating Oil Pollution at Sea in the Mediterranean Region", REMPEC, October 1998 - RIS/D/2
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.15	Global MPERSS – Submitted by WMO (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.16	IPCS INCHEM – Submitted by the International Programme on Chemical Safety - IPCS(English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.17	The role of ITOPF - Submitted by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd. – ITOPF (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.18	The Oil Pollution Management Project in the Southwest Mediterranean Sea (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) – Submitted by the World Bank (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.19	Marine Pollution Response Related Activities of the European Boatmen's Association – Submitted by the European Boatmen's Association (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.20	The ICE (International Chemical Environment) network – Submitted by CEFIC (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.21	Communication Exercise Between REMPEC and DCMR, The Netherlands, carried out within the Framework of the European Chemical Industry's Responsible Care Programme - ICE (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.22	International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, Annual Report 1997 – Submitted by IOPC Funds
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.23	International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1992, Claims Manual, June 1998 – Submitted by IOPC Funds
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.24	Regional Information System: Part D, Operational Guides and Technical Manuals; Section 14, "Draft Guide To Marine Chemical Spills", REMPEC, October 1998 – RIS/D/14 (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.25	Regional Information System: Part B, List and Inventories; Section 1, "Directory of Competent National Authorities in Charge of Accidental Marine Pollution, Preparedness, Response and Mutual Assistance in other Relevant Information", REMPEC, November 1998 – RIS/B/1 (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.26	Regional Information System: Part B, List and Inventories; Section 2, "Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Centres of Resources, which can be put, under certain conditions, at the Disposal of a State, which so requests, in Cases of Emergency", REMPEC, November 1998 – RIS/B/2 (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.16/INF.27	Regional Information System: Part B, List and Inventories; Section 4, "Directory of Companies Offering Services in the Mediterranean in Cases of Emergency", REMPEC, November 1998 – RIS/B/4 (English Only)

- REMPEC/WG.16/INF 28 Forecasting Accidental Marine Pollution Drift: The French Operational System – Submitted by Météo-France in Co-ordination with WMO (English Only)
- REMPEC/WG.16/INF 29 Idée de projet: Projet d'observation et de Suivi de a Pollution Marine – Submitted by the Tunisian Delegation (French Only)

ANNEX IV

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE MPERSS IMPLEMENTATION

A: Role of National Meteorological Services in pollution emergency response support

1. Pollution emergency response authorities should present metocean service providers (AMCs and Supporting Services) with prioritized lists of requirements (variables, product types, quality, timeliness, etc.), to allow these services to determine their own priorities for support. **Action: Pollution emergency response authorities, through IMO Secretariat.**
2. Pollution emergency response authorities require a range of oceanographic data and products as well as meteorological. Meteorological Service should therefore work to develop and/or access appropriate oceanographic data sources and models. **Action: AMCs and Supporting Services.**
3. AMCs should be prepared to provide metocean services to also support management decisions by emergency response authorities regarding the possibility and form of intervention. **Action: AMCs.**
4. An item or paper on metocean support services (including MPERSS) should be included in all future IMO conferences and meetings relating to oil spills or other marine pollution. **Action: IMO Secretariat with WMO Secretariat and AMCs.**
5. Reference to MPERSS should be included in intergovernmental protocols and contingency plans relating to marine pollution emergencies. **Action: IMO Secretariat and national response authorities.**

B: Service and product enhancement

1. Service providers require more *in situ* observational data, to enable improvements in service quality. This includes expansion of the VOS and increased automation of shipboard equipment and communications. **Actions: All WMO maritime Members, with Secretariats of WMO and IMO.**
2. Comprehensive delayed-mode metocean data sets are required for model calibration, and improved real-time data sets are required for operational applications (see also 1 above). **Action: All AMCs and supporting services, with assistance from other national authorities.**
3. Improvements in algorithms used in spill models for dispersion, emulsification and weathering are required. **Action: research institutes and operational agencies concerned.**
4. Regular and accurate on-site observations are required during incidents to refine and update models and forecasts. Formal structures should be developed on types and procedures for such data reporting. **Action: AMCs and emergency response authorities.**
5. Models, plans and procedures are required for incidents and emergencies other than for oil; e.g. chemicals, liquid gas, etc. **Action: AMCs and emergency response authorities.**
6. A global data base of long-term residual currents is required by AMCs, as well as operational access to routine current products from Topex/Poseidon. Real-time mapping of current eddies and cores is also required for spill models. **Action: Interested AMCs, relevant research institutes and WMO Secretariat.**

7. Access to high quality operational satellite wind, wave and SST data and high resolution model output fields is required by AMCs and supporting services. **Action: AMCs, satellite operators and global modelling centres.**

8. At the national level, co-operative arrangements should be established among all agencies concerned in pollution incident response, to allow accurate assessment, comprehensive reasonable response actions and attribution of costs. **Action: AMCs with pollution response authorities.**

C: Guidance and capacity building

1. AMCs and supporting services in developing countries require support to develop and strengthen capabilities in the context of MPERSS (training, equipment, modelling, etc.). **Action: All AMCs, supporting services and WMO.**

2. Spill models should be used also for simulation exercises and training. **Action: All agencies concerned.**

3. A technical guide or handbook should be prepared for use by AMCs and supporting services, covering all aspects of metocean services required for pollution emergency response, including spill modelling and reference to available models. **Action: WMO Secretariat and MPERSS Rapporteur.**

4. An example format should be prepared for information exchange and co-ordination between AMCs and supporting services. **Action: WMO Secretariat with an AMC.**

5. Consideration should be given to establishing a global network of global or regional pollution modelling centres to support AMCs. These may not necessarily be formally designated RSMCs. **Action: WMO Secretariat, major modelling centres.**

6. An oil spill contact network already exists, which may be of interest to AMCs. The address is: **EXCHANGE@obsidian.eng.miami.edu**

ANNEX V

**PROPOSED REVISED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING
CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES
IN CASES OF EMERGENCY
(EMERGENCY PROTOCOL)**

1. Title

1.1 The existing text of the title is amended as follows :

**PROTOCOL CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING POLLUTION OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN CASES OF
EMERGENCY AND PREVENTING POLLUTION FROM SHIPS**

2. Preamble

2.1 The following new paragraphs are added after the existing third paragraph :

Considering that the co-operation of all the coastal States of the Mediterranean is called for to prevent pollution from ships

Recognising also that international rules and standards to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships are adopted under the aegis of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at Montego Bay on 10 December 1982 and signed by many Contracting Parties.

Bearing in mind also the international Conventions concerning the prevention of pollution by ships and combat against accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances

2.2 The existing text of the fourth paragraph becomes the sixth paragraph and is amended as follows :

Taking into account in particular the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (hereinafter referred to as MARPOL 73/78), the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 as amended (herein after referred to as SOLAS), the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended (hereinafter referred to as STCW).

2.3 The existing text of the fifth paragraph becomes seventh and is amended as follows :

Further taking into account the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution Casualties, 1969, as well as the Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil, 1973, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969 (CLC 69) and the Protocol of 1992 relating thereto (1992 CLC Protocol) and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971 (FUND 71) and the Protocol of 1992 relating thereto (1992 FUND Protocol), and the international Convention on Oil Pollution, Preparedness, response and co-operation 1990 (OPRC)

3. **Article 1** is amended as follows :

The Contracting Parties to this Protocol (hereinafter referred to as the Parties) shall co-operate to prevent pollution of the marine environment from ships and to take the necessary measures in cases of grave and imminent danger to the marine environment

4. **Article 3 bis**

The following new article is added after existing Article 3

The Parties shall also take measures in conformity with international law to prevent the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area from ships and to ensure the effective implementation in that area of the international conventions relevant to the scope of this Protocol, in their capacity as Flag State, Port State and Coastal State. They shall develop their national capacity as regards the implementation of those international conventions. They may co-operate for their effective implementation through bilateral or multilateral agreements.

5. **Article 6**

5.1 Add the following new sub-paragraph (d), in paragraph 1 of existing Article 6 :

(d) The competent national organisation or authorities responsible for the implementation of article 3 bis, in particular, those responsible for the implementation of the international Conventions concerned, those responsible for providing port reception facilities and those responsible for the surveillance of illegal discharges under MARPOL 73/78

5.2 Add the following paragraph 3

Parties concluding bi- or multilateral agreements within the scope of this Protocol shall notify them to other Contracting Parties and to the regional centre.

ANNEX VI

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 7 RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR COMBATING POLLUTION BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean region with a view to preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships and ensuring the effective implementation in this region of the rules which are generally recognized at the international level, relating to the prevention of pollution from ships, and with a view to abating, combating and to the fullest possible extent eliminating pollution of the marine environment irrespective of the source.
2. To develop regional co-operation in the field of prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships, and to facilitate co-operation among the Mediterranean coastal States in order to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, especially in case of emergency in which there is grave and imminent danger to the marine environment or when it can affect human lives.
3. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.
4. To provide a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters, and to promote dialogue aimed at conducting co-ordinated actions at national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency and Preventing Pollution from Ships.

II. FUNCTIONS

A: GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1. To ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency and Preventing Pollution from Ships, and to perform relevant secretariat functions. In order to achieve this goal, to organize regular meetings of national authorities responsible for policies in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, preparedness for, and response to and co-operation in case of emergency, and to report to the meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
2. To develop and maintain close working relationships with other Mediterranean Regional Activity Centres and with the "specialized regional organisms" which play a co-ordinating role as set forth in the Mediterranean Action Plan, particularly with the scientific institutions within the region.
3. To co-operate as appropriate in activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan related to marine pollution.

**B: FUNCTIONS CONCERNING PREVENTION OF POLLUTION
OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM SHIPS**

Alternative I

[1. To assist the coastal States of the Mediterranean region in reinforcing their national capacities with a view to developing and implementing policies for the prevention of pollution from ships]:

Alternative II

[1. To assist coastal states of the Mediterranean Region in reinforcing their national capacities with a view that all relevant administrations may better develop and implement policies for the prevention of pollution from ships]:

- a) by collecting and disseminating information concerning legal and technical aspects of prevention of pollution from ships, making use of documents prepared by IMO;
- b) by promoting transfer of technology;
- c) by conducting training activities;
- d) by executing, at the request of the States and within the limits of available means, programmes and pilot projects.

2. To assist the coastal States of the Mediterranean region in developing regional co-operation in the field of prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships:

- a) by promoting, at request of the States the dialogue aimed at conducting co-ordinated actions at national, regional and global levels;
- b) by assisting in the implementation of regional programmes approved by the Contracting Parties;
- c) by conducting studies on subjects of regional interest, at the request of the States.

**C: FUNCTIONS CONCERNING PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO
ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION AND CO-OPERATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

- 1 To collect and disseminate information on:
 - i) Competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
 - ii) Inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency;
 - iii) General information, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in order to assist as far as necessary countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans;
 - iv) Mediterranean coastal zones, with a particular attention to the zones which are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other harmful substances. This information could be used by risk predicting models and for the preparation of environmental sensitivity maps.
2. To establish, keep up to date and operate a partially computerized data base on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods.
3. To progressively develop and operate a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to the Mediterranean coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in cases of accidents involving oil and other harmful substances.
4. To prepare, disseminate and keep up to date operational guides and technical documents.
5. To develop and maintain a regional Communications/Information system appropriate to the needs of States being served by the Centre.
6. To develop technological co-operation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and to organize training courses.
7. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral or multilateral operational agreements between neighbouring coastal States.
8. To prepare and keep up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating co-operation between Mediterranean coastal States in cases of emergency.
9. To organize and activate the Mediterranean Assistance Unit for combating accidental marine pollution created by a decision of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, 12 - 15 October 1993) in the conditions described in this decision.
10. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance of the other Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency and Preventing Pollution from Ships, or when the possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.

ANNEX VII

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE 2000 - 2001 BIENNIUM
FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF REMPEC IN THE FIELD OF
PREPAREDNESS FOR, RESPONSE TO AND CO-OPERATION
IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION**

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		2000	2001
<p>I. <u>INFORMATION</u></p> <p>Collection and dissemination of information (e.g. guidelines, recommendations and technical documents) from other relevant organizations and from the shipping, oil and chemical industry.</p> <p><u>REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM</u> (oil and hazardous substances)</p> <p><u>PART A: Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines concerning marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance.</u></p> <p>1. Guidelines related to the legal and financial aspects of mutual assistance.</p>	REMPEC	X	X
<p><u>PART B: Lists and Inventories</u></p> <p>2. Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information - SECTION 1.</p>	REMPEC	To publish annually and to provide updates as necessary	
<p>3. Inventory of experts, equipment and products which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency - SECTION 2.</p>	REMPEC	X	
<p>4. Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency - SECTION 4.</p>	REMPEC	X	
<p>5. Complete computerization and maintain this part of the RIS.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p><u>PART C: Databanks, Forecasting Models and Decision Support Systems</u></p> <p>6. Maintenance, utilization and updating of the partially computerized databank of the Centre.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>7. Acquisition of behaviour simulation models.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>8. Description of the Centre's information services on hazardous substances.</p>	REMPEC		X
<p>9. Develop and maintain the TROCS database.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>10. List of alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean - SECTION 4.</p>	REMPEC	X	X
<p>11. Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres - SECTION 7.</p>	REMPEC		X

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION				
		2000	2001			
PART D: Operational Guides and Technical Documents	REMPEC					
12. Associated risk of gases and volatile liquids spilled at sea. (Supplement) - SECTION 9.			X			
13. Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment - SECTION 10.		X				
14. Guide of countermeasures for dealing with maritime incidents involving hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X				
II. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH SO REQUEST, IN DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL CAPABILITIES	REMPEC	on request				
A. National and Subregional Systems						
15. Assistance to countries in developing their information sources at the national level by providing computerized material developed by REMPEC.						
16. Providing assistance to countries which so request, to develop their national system for preparedness and response.				Consultant	on request	
17. Providing assistance to countries which so request, for the preparation of projects for the acquisition of combating equipment which would be submitted to possible sources of international financing.				Consultant	on request	
18. Development of sub-regional systems for combating major marine pollution accidents				EC/REMPEC Consultant	on request	
19. Providing assistance to States, which so request, for the preparation and development of bilateral operational agreements amongst neighbouring coastal States.				REMPEC Consultant	on request	
B. Port Emergency Response System				REMPEC in co-operation with other organizations	on request	
20. Risk analysis: - design of pilot projects for external financing.					on request	
21. Port emergency plan: - design of pilot projects for external financing.	on request					
22. Decision support system: - design of pilot projects for external financing.		on request				
III. TRAINING	REMPEC					
23. Specialized regional training courses of a specialized type on oil or hazardous substances.		X	X			

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		2000	2001
24. Providing assistance to States, which so request in the preparation of national training seminars (assistance to two seminars per year).	REMPEC	on request	
25. Making available teaching documents for national training activities.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
26. Preparation of a training programme on preparedness and response in ports.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
IV. CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY			
27. Organization of alert exercises aimed at testing the use of the standard alert message and communications network.	REMPEC	X	X
28. Organization of "paper exercises" with chemical industry.	REMPEC	X	X
29. Organization of "operational exercises with the deployment of equipment".	in co-operation with a Contracting Party or with the Oil Industry	on a case-to-case basis	
30. Organization and administration of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit to assist combating accidental marine pollution.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
31. Maintenance of relations and contacts with the representative organizations of oil and shipping industries.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
32. Co-operation with the chemical industry (ICE project).	REMPEC in co-operation with CEFIC	permanent activity	

ANNEX VIII

**PROPOSED ORIENTATION IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION, OF POLLUTION
OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM SHIPS**

AREA OF ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD BE CARRIED OUT SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND RESOURCES	CARRIED OUT BY
<u>I</u> <u>The effective implementation of the relevant IMO Conventions</u>	<p>REMPEC</p>
<u>II</u> <u>Port reception facilities</u> Implementation of Action Plan adopted in Cairo, December 1991. (MEDA Project on reception facilities)	<p>REMPEC</p>
<u>III</u> <u>Surveillance and prosecution</u>	<p>REMPEC</p>
<u>IV</u> <u>Salvage</u>	<p>REMPEC</p>